

I purchased a new 13 foot inflatable, with inflatable V hull, from a dealer dealing in close-outs and auctions (Ballard Inflatable Boats). This boat was originally built by California Inflatables, Oceanside, CA., which went out of business in 2001. No MSO or other identification documents could be provided by the seller. I bought a 25HP outboard to power the boat (manufacturer's max HP rating for the vessel is 35HP) and upon checking on the Federal regulations, found the boat had to be registered if powered by over a 10HP motor in federally controlled waters. The transom ID plate had only a 4 character serial number and when I attempted to register the vessel, I was turned away by the state licensing department for lack of orthodox serial number or HIN. After much hassle, it was determined the vessel was materially traceable to Achilles Boats in Everett, WA. and that California Inflatables was their subsidiary that had been closed. I finally received a generic MSO from Achilles and was able to register the boat with the state, however, I was informed that the state may still reject the issuance of the title due to the unorthodox vessel identification (no HIN). Given the size of available inflatables and the HP required to plane the vessels without running full throttle, I believe the regulation should be reviewed for HP rating (possibly directly associated with manufacturer's recommended HP). Thanks for your attention to the long-winded disertation! Regards, Pete Wien